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ABSTRACT

The international exchange operations of the National Diet Library in Tokyo are developed within the context of universal availability of publications, providing an historical overview of past and present operations and emphasizing the need to strengthen these exchanges with Southeast and South Asian neighbors. Included are a presentation of book title and periodical publication data emphasizing the place of official publications; an account of Japanese experience with the international exchange of publications, exchanges of official publications, other selected exchange programs, and free transmission services; and a discussion of the National Diet Library program to improve regional exchanges with Korea, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, and other nations. A 4-step program is proposed to initiate these regional program improvements. (RAA)

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NDL'S INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES WITH
SOME EMPHASIS ON PROBLEMS RELATING TO SOUTHEAST
ASIA AND SOUTH ASIA

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Introduction

The international exchange of publications has been the oldest and major activity in the history of the international cooperative ventures among the libraries over the world, and its traditional role has come to be reviewed and reassessed in the context of the Universal Availability of Publications (UAP).

In order to realize the goal "to give the people of all countries access to the printed and published materials produced by any of them," mentioned in the Constitution of Unesco, the international exchange of publications should not be restricted to a mere barter of physical material but be taken as a positive step toward "The Global Information Exchange for Greater International Understanding," which is the general theme of the 46th IFLA General Conference. This problem involves various factors which should be discussed from multiple angles, and the present Conference to be held for the first time in Asia will certainly offer a most appropriate place of forum for Asian librarians to discuss it with their counterparts from the other part of the world and thereby improve mutual understanding and explore ways and means of finding out measures of cooperation.

Before getting into the main topic of the international exchanges carried on by the National Diet Library, I will introduce some figures on Japan's publishing and library situation.

1. Publication output and libraries in Japan

According to a reliable source, a total number of books issued in 1977 in the nation was approximately 35,000 titles, of which some 9,000 titles were official publications, both central and local. In terms of foreign language, about 600 titles including some 150 titles of official publications were written in English.

With regard to periodicals, a total figure was approximately 13,000 titles, of which about 3,000 titles were of official publications.

Let us look at the figures of libraries in Japan.

Public libraries	c.1,200
University libraries	c. 430
Junior college libraries	c. 520
Special libraries	c.2,000
School libraries	c.40,000

No comprehensive data is available for libraries and institutions carrying on exchanges with overseas institutions. However, the fact that some university and special libraries, national government agencies as well as academic and learned institutions are frequently using the transmission facility of the National Diet Library for their exchange materials to be forwarded abroad may lead to our assumption that such institutions are fairly active in international exchanges.

2. Japan's experience with the international exchange of publications

The National Diet Library's predecessor, the Imperial Library was created in 1872 under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, which marked the very beginning of Japan's history of modern library institution. In 1875, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. representing the U.S. government proposed to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs an exchange of official publications, and thus the exchange between the two countries was started.

Later on, the exchange materials between Japan and U.S.A. were extended to cover non-official publications, whose transmission service was taken care of by the Smithsonian Institution on

American side and by the said Ministry and later the Imperial Library on Japanese side. Exchanges of materials between individual Japanese institutions and their foreign partners had been gradually increased and expanded to such an extent that in the 1920's the Imperial Library received materials shipped from 6 countries for distribution to their addressed recipients, while it was dispatching materials from domestic institutions to some 40 countries.

In 1936 a formal agreement was made between the Japanese and American governments to exchange official publications, but the practice was shortly discontinued because of the warfare. In 1947, two years after World War II, a bulk of the American publications under the said agreement, which had been piled up with the Smithsonian Institution during the war, were shipped for delivery to the Imperial Library, leading to the resumption of the exchange of official publications between the two countries.

The National Diet Library was founded in the subsequent year of 1948 with its new mission and much wider dimensions of roles and responsibilities, resulting in the reorganization of the Imperial Library into a branch of NDL as a public library and the function so far performed by the latter was accordingly transferred to the NDL in August of the year. In 1949 the NDL accepted the role of a national exchange center for Japan at the request of Unesco and as such has since been carrying on the international exchange of publications as an essential means to promote international cooperation.

Now let me focus on the present status and operation of NDL's international exchanges. NDL's exchange operation has two aspects. One aspect is to conduct exchanges of publications in its own interest, while another aspect is to assist domestic institutions in promotion of their own exchanges

by offering the facility of shipment for their own exchange materials.

2-1 Exchanges of official publications

The National Diet Library is a sole legal deposit library for domestic publications. With respect to official publications, each issuing agency is bound to deposit to NDL multiple copies per title for the use of international exchange. Copies thus deposited constitute the main resources of materials with which the NDL is exchanging official publications with 11 counterpart institutions abroad. Some exchanges in this context are based on inter-governmental agreements and others on inter-library agreements. The partner institutions are as follows:

National Library of Australia, Royal Library of Belgium, National Library of Canada, Bibliotheque Nationale de la France, Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Federal Republic of Germany), British Library Reference Division, National Central Library of Taiwan, U. S. Library of Congress, University of California (Berkeley), Lenin State Library, U.S.S.R. as well as United Nations Library in Geneva.

The countries with which Japan has concluded an inter-governmental agreement are, in the order of implementation, the United States, Belgium, the U.S.S.R. followed by France which joined in this group just in April 1980.

In 1979 fiscal year ending March 1980, the NDL supplied to these partners 17,546 volumes of books and 5,413 titles of serials and received from them 18,874 volumes of books and 1,767 titles of serials.

2-2 Other selective exchange programs

This type of exchanges familiar to any other institutions is more selective in type and subject of materials to be exchanged and is to be performed through mutual consent for individual items supplied and received. Under such selective exchange programs, what the NDL supplies mainly are its own publications, central government publications and national and other public university publications.

As for the number of its exchange partners, the NDL has 643 institutions in 101 countries as well as 35 international organizations. In terms of country, the United States is predominant with 125 institutions as our exchange partners, followed by India with 25 partners, the U.K. with 24, the Republic of Korea and the U.S.S.R. with 22, respectively, and the Federal Republic of Germany with 20. In Asia, besides India and Korea, we have 14 partners in Taiwan, 13 in the Philippines, 7 each in China and Singapore.

Under these programs, in 1979 fiscal year we supplied and received the following numbers:

	<u>Supplied</u>	<u>Received</u>
Books	2,180 vols.	4,130 vols.
Serials	2,205 titles	1,708 titles
Maps	1,456 sheets	3,051 sheets
Microfilm	188 reels	249 reels

In addition, we purchase and supply commercial publications and purchasable government publications at the specific requests of some partners and receive in return academic and learned publications. Such exchanges are active with the U.S.S.R., China and the Republic of Korea.

Let's see the exchange position in relation to NDL's total

acquisition of foreign materials. In fiscal 1979, the NDL acquired 53,700 vols. of books from overseas, of which some 26,100 vols. came in on exchange, whereas out of the total of some 12,500 titles of foreign serials about 4,000 titles were received from exchange partners. Also, in comparison between official and non-official publications received on exchange, 80 % of the total were official publications.

2-3 Free transmission service for other institutions

As one wing of the function of the national exchange bureau in Japan, the NDL takes care of transmission of addressed packages of exchange materials entrusted from domestic institutions. Such entrusted packages are forwarded collectively by ocean freight to the counterpart exchange bureaus in the following countries:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, U.S.A., and Yugoslavia.

In fiscal 1979, the NDL shipped 50,865 packages originating from 415 institutions (a single institution counted in as two or more depending on frequency of its requests). In terms of country, packages forwarded to the United States are overwhelmingly large in number, followed by the Federal Republic of Germany, France and then Italy.

On the other hand, the NDL accepts similar exchange packages from foreign exchange bureaus and distributes them to domestic addressees. In fiscal 1979, 5,036 packages were received for home distribution from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland. Incidentally, in the case of the United States, the International Exchange Service, Smithsonian Institution has been

forwarding by post such entrusted packages directly to their addressees since 1978.

3. Exchanges with Asian countries, especially Southeast and South Asia

According to a recent statistics, the NDL is acquiring yearly approximately 3,000 titles of books relating to the other part of Asia, of which 60 to 70% are foreign-language publications.

As for materials NDL exchanged in fiscal 1979 with Asian partners, please see the following figures:

<u>1979/80</u>	<u>Supplied</u>	<u>Received</u>
Books	c. 1,500 vols.(7.5%) (c. 100)	c.900 vols.(3.4%) (c.200)
Serials	c. 1,200 titles(15%) (c.300)	c.1,100 titles(28%) (c.200)

The percentage is of the total intake on an exchange basis, while figures in parentheses show the materials exchanged with countries in Southeast Asia and South Asia. As shown in these figures, NDL's exchanges with this particular region of Asia are not as active as they should.

However, mere quantitative comparison of figures does not explain everything, particularly when one considers the publishing situation, distribution mechanism and related problems common in varying degrees to the countries in this region.

What matters under the given circumstances is for the libraries concerned to try to achieve better understanding of each other and thereby determine what concrete measures must be taken in order to improve the mutual flow of materials both in quantity

and quality. In our view, the first thing to be done is to ensure mutual supply of such materials as administrative reports, handbooks, statistics and basic bibliographies, and in so doing the factor of balancing should not be taken as priority consideration, because the output of publications varies from one country to another.

In Japanese journalism today many leaders from various sectors of the society are advocating Japan's shift of emphasis in its approaches to Asian neighbors and maintain that cultural aspect of cooperation and assistance should be strengthened and activated. This reflects the current tendency of the government and people cognizant of the importance of deepening mutual understandings and friendship through increased flow of information and knowledge between this country and her Asian neighbors. The library world is no exception, and many librarians want to see much closer contacts established with other Asian librarians.

In September 1978, the National Diet Library convened a working-level meeting with representatives of some libraries in and near Tokyo, which are using our transmission service for their own exchange materials, at which views and comments were exchanged frankly between them and our staff concerned. At this gathering they expressed their desire that an exchange bureau corresponding to that of NDL be set up in China, Korea, the Philippines and Indonesia in addition to some other countries in the other part of the world, which is a clear indication that they are as much interested in these countries in promotion of exchanges.

In this further connection, it may be noteworthy to state the NDL's basic acquisition policy for fiscal 1980 in regard to Asian materials. According to the policy statement,

- 1) the NDL should try as best as it can in acquiring basic reference books, bibliographies and materials on the current

state of affairs in the other part of Asia; 2) in order to procure native publications difficult to procure through ordinary channels, the NDL should keep in closer contacts with domestic institutions interested in Asian materials in its efforts to find out better ways of procurement; 3) as for acquisition of official publications, exchanges with the respective countries should be further developed.

All these show the evidences that Japan has had growing interest in having more and closer contacts with Asian neighbors for promotion of cultural interchange in and outside the library world. From our point of view, it is especially true with Southeast and South Asia, and the NDL should give priority to these regions in enhancing mutual understanding and collaboration through exchange of information and materials.

4. Conclusion

The present paper has tried to give a picture of NDL's international exchange operations, past and present, as well as its historical background. It also emphasized the necessity of strengthening exchanges especially with Southeast and South Asian neighbors in the light of the relative weakness in the exchange relations with that region.

To make the points clearer, may I elaborate on the steps or measures which we should take in cooperation with our Asian partners;

1) With particular reference to exchanges of official publications with Southeast and South Asian countries, the NDL should place more emphasis on the quality of publications rather than on their quantity.

2) In order to implement effective exchange programs with these countries, there should be good understanding reached

between NDL and its exchange partners in terms of subject interests and publication languages.

3) It is possible that exchange programs may be based on mutual consent on specific items to be exchanged, on an inter-library agreement, or an inter-governmental arrangement, depending on particular cases and circumstances. For the immediate future, we should think that an inter-library agreement may be a most appropriate form to be aimed at.

4) In consideration of the desire of some domestic institutions, the NDL should get in touch with the competent authorities of each country in the region and urge them to consider setting up a national exchange bureau or center in the country.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate the necessity of strengthening exchange relations among the Asian nations in particular as an essential step to contribute toward the goal of UAP and also in anticipation of developing other forms of cooperation in such fields as reference and bibliography preparation works.

Thank you.